

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2003, Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of Claims 8 and 10-13. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider his rejection of the remaining claims.

Claims 1-20 remain in the application.

Claims 8 and 10-13 are allowed.

Claims 8 - 9, 14, 15, and 16 are objected to.

Claims 1, 9, and 14 - 16 are being amended.

Claims 8 - 9, 14, 15, and 16 stand objected to by the Examiner due to various informalities. In view of the amendments set forth above, Applicants believes these claims now more particularly point out and distinctly claim the concepts believed to be inventive.

Claims 1-6, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fischer, et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,131,174) (hereinafter "the *Fischer* reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, in view of the claim amendments set forth above.

The *Fischer* reference does not teach a program selectable trigger event type or a program selectable trigger event count threshold. In the *Fischer* reference, a counter automatically increments when a word is latched into a buffer and automatically decrements when a word is retrieved from the buffer. In other words, the disclosed circuit is fixed, rather than programmable.

Claims 7, and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are otherwise allowable. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Claims 7 and 18 - 20 should pass to allowance.

No new matter has been added; the application has been merely amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants believe is inventive.


Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims as they now stand are patentably distinct over the art cited during the prosecution thereof.

With the addition of no new claims, no additional filing fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 23-2426 of WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (214) 745-5374.

Respectfully submitted,  
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